

# REFEDS Assurance Framework version 2.0

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## Abstract

In identity federations, Relying Parties (RPs) grant access to services by allowing users to use their own institutional credentials by logging in to their respective Identity Providers (IdPs), which rely on their institution's underlying Credential Service Providers (CSPs). To manage risks related to federated access to their services, some RPs in research and education federations must decide how much certainty they need in the assertions made by the IdPs. This document specifies a framework for articulating such assurances and their expression by the CSP to the RP using common identity federation protocols.

This framework splits assurance into the following orthogonal components:

- Identifier uniqueness
- Identity assurance
- Attribute assurance

To simplify matters for RPs, the components may be further collapsed into two assurance profiles (with the arbitrary names Cappuccino and Espresso) that cover all components. This framework also specifies how to represent the defined claims using federated identity protocols, currently SAML 2.0 and OpenID Connect.

*With some exceptions for IAP process-based claims defined below, claims made on the basis of the original REFEDS Assurance Framework (RAF 1.0) can continue to be expressed under the REFEDS Assurance Framework version 2.0 (RAF 2.0). Appendix A contains an explanation of this, and section 4 below defines how to express IAP claims under RAF 1.0 and under RAF 2.0.*

|  |          |
|--|----------|
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72 **1. Purpose and Scope**

73 *This section is informative.*

74 This document provides a framework by which a Credential Service Provider (CSP) provides  
75 assurance claims about some of the attributes of the user who is authenticating to access the  
76 Relying Party’s (RP’s) service, for use in common identity federation protocols.

77 The CSP is the central part of an organisation’s authentication and authorisation infrastructure  
78 where the user enrollment, credential issuance and user lifecycle are managed. In a federated  
79 environment the RP uses a federation protocol (typically SAML or OIDC) to communicate with  
80 the user’s Identity Provider (IdP), which represents the CSP to the RP using the federation  
81 protocol to provide the user’s authentication details and related attributes. This framework  
82 addresses the following distinct components:

83 *Identifier Uniqueness* - a method to communicate to the RP that the user's identifier  
84 (such as a login name) is unique, and is only bound to one identity in the CSP's context.

85 *Identity Assurance* - a method to communicate to the RP how certain the CSP was at  
86 enrollment time of the real-world identity of the Person to whom the account was issued.  
87 This framework specifies three levels of process-based identity assurance and  
88 authenticator management (low, medium and high) and one risk-based identity  
89 assurance claim.

90 *Attribute Assurance* - a method to communicate to the RP regarding the quality and  
91 freshness of attributes (other than the unique identifier) passed in the login assertion.

92 In a federated environment, since an RP outsources some or all of its authenticator issuance and  
93 management needs to one or more external CSPs, it must rely on those CSPs to manage  
94 associated risk. How much risk is acceptable and which security controls are applied is based on  
95 the RP organisation's assessment of the sensitivity of the information and data collected,  
96 processed, and maintained by its information systems, services, applications and infrastructure.  
97 Based on the organisation's particular needs and level of risk it is willing to accept, the  
98 organisation will require a commensurate level of certainty on understanding the CSP's  
99 assurance of the asserted identity and attributes. There are varying degrees of certainty required,  
100 with assertions about the uniqueness and timeliness of some attributes. This document presents  
101 a framework for communicating those degrees of certainty over federated login.

102 Claims about authentication strength are outside the scope of this framework (for example, the  
103 [REFEDS SFA Profile](#) and [REFEDS MFA Profile](#)); however, while REFEDS Assurance  
104 Framework (RAF) claims are transmitted from the CSP to the RP with every federated login, the  
105 authentication needs to be commensurately strong enough to ensure that the claims pertain to  
106 the person logging in. For example, an RP that determines that a service it provides requires  
107 high assurance should also require MFA from the CSP.

108 In addition, outside the scope of this framework, an RP must also ensure that the claims from the  
109 CSP are protected and cannot be modified in transport. For example, in SAML the assertion  
110 response is signed using a certificate known and trusted by the RP.

111 The purpose of producing this version 2.0 of RAF (RAF 2.0) is twofold:

- 112 ● tighten the definitions of many claims based on field experience with RAF 1.0 (the  
113 original RAF), and
- 114 ● provide a single set of criteria defining the IAP claims of low, moderate, and high,  
115 avoiding the need for the CSP to refer to one of several external standards and also  
116 reducing the ambiguity faced by RPs who wish to have a clear understanding of what  
117 each IAP claim actually means.

## 118 2. Terms and Definitions

| Term          | Definition   |
|---------------|--|
| Authenticator | A means used to perform digital authentication. A Person authenticates to a system by demonstrating possession and control of an authenticator. Examples: a password, a phone number used to receive OTP by SMS, an MFA token. |

| Term                              | Definition   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Claimant                          | The Person submitting a claim of identity to the CSP's identity proofing process.  |
| Credential                        | A set of data presented as evidence of a claimed identity and/or entitlements [X.1254].  |
| Credential Service Provider (CSP) | A trusted actor that issues and/or manages credentials [X.1254]. In the context of this specification, CSP refers to the Identity Provider and the associated Identity Management system that manages the user identities and attributes observed by the Relying Parties.  |
| Identity Evidence                 | Information or documentation provided by the applicant to support the claimed identity. Identity evidence may be physical (e.g. a driver licence) or digital (e.g. an assertion generated and issued by a CSP based on the applicant successfully authenticating to the CSP). [NIST SP 800-63-3]   |
| Identity Proofing Process         | The process by which a CSP evaluates a Claimant's claim of identity. Identity proofing processes may vary in levels of assurance, the characteristics of which are articulated in this framework.  |
| Identity Provider (IdP)           | Generally, a software component that acts as the federated interface to the CSP.   |
| Person                            | For the purposes of this document, a "Person" refers to a living, individual human being and not a legal entity such as a corporation or a system or shared account. This is sometimes referred to as a "natural person" as opposed to a "legal person".   |
| Registrar                         | The person executing the identity proofing process for the CSP.  |
| Relying Party (RP)                | An actor that relies on an identity assertion or claim [X.1254].   |
| Supervised Remote Proofing        | <p>An identity proofing process is considered 'supervised remote' when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Claimant does not appear in-person face to face with a Registrar, and</li> <li>2. the CSP's Registrar and Claimant interact during the identity proofing process, such as over a live video chat in such a way that the Registrar verifies the Claimant's identity.</li> </ol> |

| Term                         | Definition  |
|------------------------------|---|
| Unsupervised Remote Proofing | <p>An identity proofing process is considered 'unsupervised remote' when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the Claimant does not appear in-person face to face with the Registrar, and</li> <li>2. no Registrar interacts with the Claimant during the identity proofing process.</li> </ol> <p>Unsupervised Remote Proofing processes may be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. not fully-automated, in which the CSP uses a Registrar to evaluate the application and perform any checks required after the time of the Claimant's application, or</li> <li>b. fully-automated, where the CSP uses technology to process the claim and automate any required checks.</li> </ol> <p>An identity proofing process may use a combination of fully-automated and not fully-automated unsupervised remote proofing.</p> |

119 The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD",  
120 "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be  
121 interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

### 122 3. Conformance Criteria

123 *This section is normative.*

124 For a CSP to conform to this framework it is REQUIRED to conform to the following criteria from  
125 REFEDS Baseline Expectations for Identity Provider Operators:

- 126 1. Your Identity Provider is operated with organisational-level authority
- 127 2. Your Identity Provider is trusted enough to be used to access your organisation's own  
128 systems
- 129 3. You publish contact information for your Identity Provider and respond in a timely fashion  
130 to operational issues
- 131 4. You apply security practices to protect user information, safeguard transaction integrity,  
132 and ensure timely incident response
- 133 5. You ensure the metadata registered in Federation is complete, accurate and up to date

134 A CSP SHALL indicate its conformance to these criteria by asserting the following URI:  
135 <https://refeds.org/assurance>.

136 A CSP MAY choose to release only <https://refeds.org/assurance> to signal its  
137 conformance with these criteria without making any other assurance assertions.

138 If a CSP is releasing any other assurance values in this framework for a Person it MUST also  
139 release <https://refeds.org/assurance>.

140

## 141 4. Versioning

142 *This section is normative.*

143 With the exception of the RAF 1.0 claims for IAPs low, medium, high, each RAF 1.0 claim can  
144 continue to be expressed under RAF 2.0. Full details of these exceptions are explained in  
145 Appendix A. Further, all RAF 2.0 claims are expressed in the same manner as RAF 1.0 claims:

- 146 • Conformance (section 3 above) must be signalled with the  
147 `https://refeds.org/assurance` value of `eduPersonAssurance` [`eduPerson`].
- 148 • Individual RAF (1.0 or 2.0) claims are expressed as values of `eduPersonAssurance` in  
149 the `https://refeds.org/assurance/` namespace.

150 To make clear whether a claim is made under RAF 1.0 or RAF 2.0, an additional claim is defined.

151

| Value   | Definition   |
|---|--|
| <code>https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2</code> | All claims expressed in the <code>https://refeds.org/assurance/</code> namespace are based on RAF 2.0. |

152 If a CSP makes any process-based IAP claim (IAP low, IAP medium, or IAP high), in order to  
153 claim the RAF 2.0 version, the CSP MUST either implement the normative criteria for process-  
154 based claims in section 5.2.1, or MUST meet compatibility of an equivalent or higher assured  
155 framework as detailed in Appendix A.2. Note that this does not apply to the risk-based IAP claim  
156 of local-enterprise. RAF 1.0's claim of local-enterprise, as with other RAF 1.0 non-process-  
157 based-IAP claims, can continue to be expressed under RAF 2.0.

158 Thus, for example, the claim `https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high` is declared to be  
159 based on RAF 2.0 criteria if the `https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2` claim is also  
160 made; otherwise it refers to RAF 1.0. CSPs MUST send the version 2 claim if they also send an  
161 IAP high claim based on RAF 2.0. The specific RAF 2.0 IAP criteria which cannot be assumed to  
162 be met by RAF 1.0 IAP claims are detailed in Appendix A.

163 All non-process-based IAP RAF (1.0 or 2.0) claims (in section 5.2.1) have the same assurance  
164 intent whether the version 2 claim is made or not. Because RAF 2.0 makes wording changes and  
165 other clarifications in the definitions of most RAF claims, it is possible that some RPs may  
166 interpret a difference where none is intended. See Appendix A for further discussion on RAF 1.0  
167 compatibility with RAF 2.0 compatibility.

168 Any entity implementing RAF for the first time SHOULD use the latest version.

## 169 5. Assurance Components

170 *This section is normative.*

171 This section introduces three assurance components which each represent a different aspect of  
172 assurance. The components are orthogonal; therefore, a CSP can assert values from different  
173 components independently. The values are claims about the specific Person represented in the  
174 assertion; different Persons may qualify for different values.

175 See Appendix C for a complete annotated example.

176 **5.1. Identifier Uniqueness**

177 A unique identifier MUST represent one and only one Person in the CSP's system. A non-  
 178 reassignable identifier is attached to only one Person, *i.e.*, once created, it MUST NOT be  
 179 repurposed to represent another Person at any time, even when the Person associated with the  
 180 identifier no longer exists in the issuing identity system.

181 **5.1.1. Identifier Uniqueness Characteristics**

182 This component describes how a CSP expresses identifier uniqueness for a Person when it  
 183 provides one or more of the set of identifiers specified in [UN0] below.

184

| Value  | Definition  |
|--|---|
| <p><code>https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/unique</code></p> | <p>Asserting this value means that one or more of the identifiers listed in [UN0] is provided. Furthermore, each identifier listed in [UN0] that is provided MUST meet all of the criteria [UN1], [UN2], and [UN3]:</p> <p><b>[UN0]</b> The identifier is a SAML 2.0 persistent name identifier [OASIS SAML], subject-id or pairwise-id [OASIS SIA], OpenID Connect sub (type: public or pairwise) or eduPersonUniqueId [eduPerson]</p> <p><b>[UN1]</b> The identifier MUST represent a single Person</p> <p><b>[UN2]</b> The CSP MUST have a means to contact the Person to whom the identifier is assigned whilst the identifier is in use.</p> <p><b>[UN3]</b> The identifier MUST NOT be reassigned</p> |

185

186 **5.1.2. Uniqueness of eduPersonPrincipalName**

187 In addition to the identifiers listed in [UN0], eduPersonPrincipalName (ePPN, [eduPerson]) is a  
 188 human-readable identifier whose reassignment practice is undefined by its specification. To  
 189 support Relying Parties' use of ePPN, the following values are defined to describe a CSP's ePPN  
 190 practices.

191 The values in the following table are mutually exclusive. A CSP MAY assert one of them but  
 192 MUST NOT assert more than one.

193

| Value   | Description   |
|---|---|
| <p><code>https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-unique-no-reassign</code></p> | <p>eduPersonPrincipalName value has the [UN1], [UN2] and [UN3] (as defined in the table above on ID/unique) properties.</p> |

`https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-unique-reassign-1y`

eduPersonPrincipalName value has the [UN1] and [UN2] (as defined in the table above on ID/unique) property but may be reassigned after a hiatus period of 1 year or longer.

194 *The remainder of section 5.1.2 is informative.*

195 The expected RP behaviour for observing ePPN reassignment is as follows:

- 196 ● If the CSP asserts `eppn-unique-no-reassign`, the RP knows that when it observes a  
197 given ePPN value it will always be assigned to the same Person.
- 198 ● If the CSP asserts `eppn-unique-reassign-1y`, the RP knows that if no assertion  
199 bearing that ePPN value as a unique identifier is received for one year, the ePPN may  
200 have been reassigned. A safe practice for the RP is to close a user account or remove  
201 the ePPN value associated with it if the user hasn't logged in for one year. The RP can  
202 also use some out-of-band mechanism to verify whether the user is still the same  
203 Person.
- 204 ● If the CSP asserts neither `eppn-unique-no-reassign` nor `eppn-unique-`  
205 `reassign-1y`, the RP cannot rely on ePPN as a unique identifier but should use it only  
206 in combination with another identifier listed in [UN0].

207 Finally, the reader is reminded that they should not assume any property that goes beyond the  
208 specification of the ePPN attribute. For instance, an RP must not assume that an ePPN value  
209 can be used as the recipient of an email message.

## 210 5.2. Identity Proofing and Authenticator Issuance, Renewal and 211 Replacement

212 *The following is informative.*

213 This framework supports two different approaches for making Identity Assurance related claims.  
214 The first approach is based on assessment of the identity proofing and authenticator  
215 management process(es) used by the CSP against specified sets of criteria, and RPs determine  
216 which set(s) of criteria suffice to address their risks. This approach is detailed in section 5.2.1  
217 below. Appendix B contains informative implementation guidance for RAF 2.0 process-based  
218 Identity Assurance Profile (IAP) claims.

219 The second approach is based on the issuing organisation's accepted risk. In this approach, the  
220 CSP asserts whether the organisation of which it is a part trusts its own identity proofing and  
221 authenticator management processes enough to address risk associated with their use within the  
222 local enterprise, and RPs determine if that organisation's risk acceptance suffices for  
223 themselves. This approach is detailed in section 5.2.2 below.

224 These approaches may be used independently or together. Identity Assurance Profile claims are  
225 defined below for each approach.

### 226 5.2.1. Process-Based Identity Assurance Profile Claims

227 *The following is normative.*

228 This Framework defines IAP values "low", "medium" and "high", which constitute an ordered set  
229 of identity proofing levels with increasing requirements. A CSP asserting an IAP value of "high"  
230 for a user MUST also assert the IAP values "medium" and "low" for that user. A CSP asserting an  
231 IAP value of "medium" for a user MUST also assert the IAP value "low" for that user.



| Value   | Definition  |
|---|---|
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low</a>       | The bearer of this claim is a Person with a self-asserted identity. To issue this value, the CSP MUST satisfy or exceed all criteria in the IAP low column in the Table of Normative IAP Criteria.                        |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium</a> | The bearer of this claim is a Person with a reasonably validated and verified identity. To issue this value, the CSP MUST satisfy or exceed all criteria in the IAP medium column in the Table of Normative IAP Criteria. |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high</a>     | The bearer of this claim is a Person with a well validated and verified identity. To issue this value, the CSP MUST satisfy or exceed all criteria in the IAP high column in the Table of Normative IAP Criteria.         |

233 **Table of Normative IAP Criteria**

234 Specific criteria that define each IAP level are organised into the following groups: General  
 235 Requirements, Identity Evidence, Validation, Verification, Authenticator Binding, and  
 236 Unsupervised Remote Proofing.

237 Some jurisdictions and vendors provide identity proofing and authenticator management services  
 238 that meet or exceed the criteria for a given IAP level. When a Claimant demonstrates  
 239 authentication to such a third-party service, corresponding criteria in the IE, VA, VF, and UR  
 240 criteria groups specified below MAY be considered satisfied at that IAP level by the CSP. When  
 241 authentication to such a service is used to satisfy the corresponding criteria at IAP high, the  
 242 authentication SHALL use MFA or similarly strong or stronger authentication. The CSP SHALL  
 243 document which criteria are satisfied in such a manner, per [GR2] below.

244

| Normative Criteria  | IAP low | IAP medium | IAP high |
|---|---------|------------|----------|
| General Requirements [GR#]  |         |            |          |
| <b>[GR1]</b> The CSP takes measures to ensure that the Claimant accomplishing each step of the identity proofing and authenticator issuing process is the same Person throughout the process. | x       | x          | x        |
| <b>[GR2]</b> The identity proofing process follows documented procedures, and the documentation addresses how the   | x       | x          | x        |

| Normative Criteria  | IAP low | IAP medium | IAP high |
|---|---------|------------|----------|
| CSP meets all applicable criteria for each IAP level they support.  |         |            |          |
| <p><b>[GR3]</b> Records are kept of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the Claimant was identity-proofed</li> <li>• To what IAP level</li> <li>• For IAP medium or high, the attributes that were validated by the identity proofing process</li> <li>• For IAP high, values of one or more attributes validated by the identity proofing process that uniquely identifies the Claimant</li> <li>• Changes to the binding between a Claimant and their associated authenticators or contact information as identified in [AB5].</li> </ul> <p>Each record should be preserved in accordance with local record-retention guidelines.</p> | x       | x          | x        |
| <b>Identity Evidence [IE#]</b><br>Acceptable sources of identity evidence.  |         |            |          |
| <b>[IE1]</b> No identity evidence is required.  | x       |            |          |
| <p><b>[IE2]</b> Identity evidence is acceptable for use in identity proofing if it is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• valid at the time of identity proofing, and</li> <li>• contains attribute(s) that uniquely identifies the Claimant, and</li> <li>• is either issued by a nationally recognised<sup>1</sup> source or is nationally recognised as being valid for identification purposes or is a documented attestation (vouch) from an authority recognised by the CSP per [VA4.3].</li> </ul>  |         | x          | x        |
| <b>Validation [VA#]</b><br>Confirm that identity evidence is genuine and claimed identity exists.   |         |            |          |
| <b>[VA1]</b> No identity evidence is required.  | x       |            |          |
| <b>[VA2]</b> Identity evidence presented appears to be genuine.   |         | x          |          |

<sup>1</sup>Identity documents issued by States, Cantons, Provinces, Departments, or other jurisdictions within a country are acceptable if they are recognised across the country.

| Normative Criteria   | IAP low | IAP medium | IAP high |
|--|---------|------------|----------|
| <p><b>[VA3]</b> If the identity evidence presented contains intrinsic physical and/or cryptographic security features, either the physical or cryptographic features must be checked.</p>  |         |            | x        |
| <p><b>[VA4]</b> The identity evidence presented is checked against a trusted source to validate that the identity presented by the identity evidence exists. The trusted source shall be appropriate and authoritative in the CSP's context. Such checks may, but need not, take one of the following forms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One or more issuing or authoritative sources confirm the validity of the identifying attributes presented by the identity evidence.</li> <li>2. Transaction records of a recognised organisation providing financial, educational, or utility services document the presence of the identity in those transactions.</li> <li>3. A person vouches for the claimed identity. This person must have been previously identity proofed at IAP high and the vouch itself must be communicated directly by the person to the CSP in a trusted manner.</li> </ol> |         |            | x        |
| <p><b>Verification [VF#]</b><br/>Confirm ownership of the claimed identity in the presence of a Registrar, either in-person or a supervised remote session.</p>  |         |            |          |
| <p><b>[VF1]</b> The Claimant is checked to be a Person.</p>  | x       | x          | x        |
| <p><b>[VF2]</b> Presented identity evidence reasonably appears to belong to the Claimant.</p>  |         | x          | x        |
| <p><b>Authenticator Binding [AB#]</b><br/>Establish and maintain the binding between an authenticator and a vetted identity.</p>   |         |            |          |
| <p><b>[AB1]</b> The Claimant must provide at least one piece of contact information and demonstrate control of any provided contact information (e.g., email, postal address, telephone number, or similar) during the identity proofing process to be used for notification or initial authenticator issuance purposes.</p>   | x       | x          | x        |

| Normative Criteria  | IAP low | IAP medium | IAP high |
|---|---------|------------|----------|
| <p><b>[AB2]</b> If the CSP issues an authenticator to the Claimant during or after the identity proofing process, it must be delivered in a manner that can be assumed to only reach the Claimant.</p>  | x       | x          |          |
| <p><b>[AB3]</b> If the CSP issues an authenticator to the Claimant during or after the identity proofing process, it must be delivered only into the possession of the Claimant to whom it belongs.</p>   |         |            | x        |
| <p><b>[AB4]</b> If the CSP permits the Claimant to register a previously issued authenticator, then the Claimant must demonstrate control of that authenticator to the CSP during the identity proofing process. Such an authenticator may either be issued by the CSP in a prior context or one issued by a third party that has been documented as acceptable by the CSP.</p>   | x       | x          | x        |
| <p><b>[AB5]</b> After initial identity proofing is complete, the binding between the vetted identity and associated authenticators and contact information must be maintained. This must be done either by re-identity proofing or by authenticating with a valid authenticator previously bound to the vetted identity, when any of the following occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• renewal, replacement, or removal of a vetted Claimant’s existing authenticator, or</li> <li>• registering a new authenticator, or</li> <li>• updating, adding, or removing contact information.</li> </ul> <p>Any new authenticator must be of a kind that is documented as acceptable by the CSP and the Claimant must demonstrate control of it.</p> | x       | x          | x        |
| <p>Unsupervised Remote Proofing [UR#]<br/>Additional requirements when Claimant is not supervised through the process by a Registrar</p>  |         |            |          |
| <p><b>[UR1]</b> When unsupervised remote proofing is used, at least one piece of contact information is verified to belong to the Claimant by a trusted source (“trusted source” is defined in [VA4]).</p>  |         |            | x        |
| <p><b>[UR2]</b> When unsupervised remote proofing is used, [VA4] is required.</p>   |         | x          | x        |

| Normative Criteria  | IAP low | IAP medium | IAP high |
|---|---------|------------|----------|
| <p><b>[UR3]</b> When unsupervised remote proofing is used, one of the following means is used to meet [VF2]:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Registrar manually compares a photo or other biometric contained within a piece of validated identity evidence with a live video, photo or other biometric of the Claimant captured during the unsupervised remote portion of the proofing process.</li> <li>2. An automated system compares a photo or other biometric contained within a piece of validated identity evidence with a live video, photo or other biometric of the Claimant captured during the unsupervised remote portion of the proofing process, and the technology that does the comparison is deemed sufficient for this purpose by a nationally or internationally recognised authority.</li> </ol> |         |            | x        |

245 Appendix B contains a narrative presentation of these criteria.

## 246 5.2.2 Risk-based Identity Assurance Profile (IAP) Claim

247 *This section is normative.*

248 In contrast to the approach in section 5.2.1, in which claims are made about some of the CSP's  
249 processes, in this section a claim, called "local-enterprise", is made about the demonstrated risk  
250 acceptance of an organisation the CSP supports. If the organisation deems the level of identity  
251 assurance good enough for accessing their critical internal systems, then it might also be judged  
252 good enough for accessing some external resources.

253 The organisation **MUST** have made a risk-based decision on requirements that must be satisfied  
254 by CSP accounts before they may be granted access to their critical internal systems. That is,  
255 the organisation has demonstrated through its satisfaction with on-going operations that it  
256 accepts whatever residual risk is inherent in potential misuse of any of their critical internal  
257 systems by an authorised authenticator.

258 All of the organisation's users whose identity is proofed by the same or better processes, and  
259 who possess authenticators that are managed by the same or better processes, can have the  
260 local-enterprise claim asserted with their federated logins.

261 Organisations may have several internal systems with varying risk levels, and hence various  
262 identity assurance level requirements. Those deemed "critical internal systems" in this  
263 specification **MUST** satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- 264 ● The system manages some of the organisation's expenditures
- 265 ● The system manages employment-related personal data
- 266 ● The system manages student-related personal data
- 267 ● The system manages some aspect of the organisation's regulatory or legal compliance
- 268 obligations
- 269 ● The system is vital to the functioning of the organisation

270 A CSP **MAY** assert the following value independent of the other IAP values defined above in  
271 section 5.2.1:

| Value   | Description  |
|---|--|
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise</a> | The identity proofing and authenticator issuance, renewal and replacement are done in a way that qualifies (or would qualify) the user to access the organisation's critical internal systems. |

## 272 5.3. Attribute Quality and Freshness

273 *This section is normative.*

274 This section describes the requirements for the quality and freshness of the attributes (other than  
275 the unique identifier) that the CSP delivers to the RP.

276 The requirements are limited to the eduPersonAffiliation, eduPersonScopedAffiliation and  
277 eduPersonPrimaryAffiliation attributes defined in [eduPerson]. The freshness of the attribute is  
278 further limited to the following attribute values: faculty, student and member. Other values and  
279 attributes are out of scope.

280 Here "freshness" refers to the latency between the time when one of these affiliations is changed  
281 in the organisation's associated system of record and the time when the organisation's Identity  
282 Provider accurately reflects the change.

283 The freshness of eduPersonAffiliation, eduPersonScopedAffiliation and  
284 eduPersonPrimaryAffiliation is intended to serve the RPs who want to couple their users' access  
285 rights with their continuing institutional role.

286 The values are hierarchical. A CSP which asserts  
287 <https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d> MUST also assert  
288 <https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m> for a given user.

289

| Value   | Description   |
|---|---|
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m</a> | Appearance of "faculty", "student", or "member" in any of eduPersonAffiliation, eduPersonScopedAffiliation or eduPersonPrimaryAffiliation attributes accurately reflect the user's affiliation(s) in associated systems of record within the previous 31 calendar days. |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d</a> | Appearance of "faculty", "student", or "member" in any of eduPersonAffiliation, eduPersonScopedAffiliation or eduPersonPrimaryAffiliation attributes accurately reflect the user's affiliation(s) in associated systems of record within the previous 1 working day.    |

290 *The remainder of this section is informative.*

291 This specification imposes no particular requirements on the organisational business policies and  
292 practices regarding the start or end of an affiliation between the user and the organisation. For  
293 example:

- 294 ● In some organisations, a faculty loses their organisational role and privileges the day  
295 their employment ends. In other organisations, there is a defined grace period during  
296 which they maintain their faculty privileges.
- 297 ● In some universities, a student loses their organisational role and privileges the day they  
298 graduate. In other universities, the student role and privileges remain effective until the  
299 end of the next semester.
- 300 ● In some organisations, a new faculty appointee is given faculty access privileges some  
301 time before the start of their contract term. In other organisations, faculty access  
302 privileges commence on the first day of their contract term.
- 303 ● In some organisations, particularly during busy times-of-year, data entry in responsible  
304 offices (eg, HR or Registrar) may be backed-up on either the incoming or outgoing end  
305 and affiliations may be "back-dated" to reflect actual start or end dates.

306 None of these situations have any bearing on the value of the freshness claim. The timeframe  
307 being claimed only refers to the time from when the business process updates the relevant  
308 system of record, not when the action is time-stamped (which may be backdated as per the  
309 example above).

310 Notice also that this section does not require that the departing user's account must be closed;  
311 only that the affiliation attribute value as observed by the RPs is updated.

## 312 6. Assurance profiles

313 *This section is normative.*

314 The following describes a simplified way to bundle claims by collapsing the components  
315 presented in sections 3 and 5 into two assurance profiles: *cappuccino* and *espresso*.

316 The CSPs who populate the assurance assertions presented in the section 5 SHOULD also  
317 populate all assurance profiles to which they qualify.

318 The table below defines the following assurance profiles:

- 319 ● Assurance profile Cappuccino for low-risk research use cases  
320 (<https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/cappuccino>)
- 321 ● Assurance profile Espresso for use cases requiring verified identity  
322 (<https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/espresso>)

323 A CSP qualifies to a profile if it asserts (and complies with) all the values marked as 'X' in the  
324 column.

325

| Value   | Cappuccino | Espresso |
|---|------------|----------|
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance">https://refeds.org/assurance</a>                     | X          | X        |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/unique">https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/unique</a> | X          | X        |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-">https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-</a>   |            |          |

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| unique-no-reassign  |       |       |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-unique-reassign-1y">https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/eppn-unique-reassign-1y</a> |       |       |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low</a>                                       | X     | X     |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium</a>                                 | X     | X     |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high</a>                                     |       | X     |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise</a>             |       |       |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m</a>                                 | X (*) | X (*) |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d</a>                                 |       |       |

326 (\*) The CSP can omit this requirement if it doesn't populate and release the attribute values  
327 defined in section 5.3 for this Person.

328 For instance, if a user qualifies for all values required according to the column "Espresso" the  
329 CSP SHOULD assert `profile/espresso` for this user.

330 Notice that the assurance profiles do not cover the authentication assurance of the user session.  
331 The deployers are encouraged to use the profiles in conjunction with specifications focusing on  
332 authentication.

333 Also note that cappuccino and espresso represent an ordered set. If a CSP signals espresso, the  
334 CSP MUST signal *both* cappuccino and espresso.

## 335 7. Representation on federated protocols

336 *This section is normative.*

337 This section specifies how the values presented in the previous section shall be represented  
338 using federated identity protocols.

339 In SAML 2.0, this assurance framework is to be represented using the multivalued  
340 `eduPersonAssurance` attribute, as defined in [eduPerson].

341 In OIDC, this assurance framework is to be represented using the multivalued  
342 `eduperson_assurance` claim, as defined in [REFEDS OIDCre].

## 343 8. References

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| eduPerson | Internet2/MACE. eduPerson Object Class Specification (201602).<br><br><a href="http://software.internet2.edu/eduperson/internet2-mace-dir-eduperson-201602.html">http://software.internet2.edu/eduperson/internet2-mace-dir-eduperson-201602.html</a> |
|-----------|---|



|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| eIDAS LoA        | European Commission. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1502 of 8 September 2015 on setting out minimum technical specifications and procedures for assurance levels for electronic identification means. <a href="http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_235_R_0002">http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_235_R_0002</a>   |
| ePSA Comparison  | Cormack, A., Linden, M. REFEDs ePSA usage comparison, version 0.13. <a href="https://blog.refeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ePSAcomparison_0_13.pdf">https://blog.refeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ePSAcomparison_0_13.pdf</a>   |
| IGTF             | Interoperable Global Trust Federation<br>Groep, D (editor). IGTF Levels of Authentication Assurance, version 1.0. <a href="https://www.igtf.net/ap/authn-assurance/">https://www.igtf.net/ap/authn-assurance/</a>   |
| Kantara SAC      | Kantara Initiative. Kantara Identity Assurance Framework. KIAF-1420 Operational -63r2 Service Assessment Criteria. Version 1.0. Publication Date 2018-03-21.<br><br><a href="https://kantarainitiative.org/confluence/display/LC/Identity+Assurance+Framework">https://kantarainitiative.org/confluence/display/LC/Identity+Assurance+Framework</a>   |
| Kantara TSL      | Kantara Initiative Trust Status List. <a href="https://kantarainitiative.org/trust-status-list/">https://kantarainitiative.org/trust-status-list/</a>   |
| NIST SP 800-63-3 | <a href="https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-63-3.pdf">https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-63-3.pdf</a>   |
| OASIS SAML       | Assertions and Protocols for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) V2.0. OASIS Standard. 15 March 2005.   |
| OASIS SIA        | SAML V2.0 Subject Identifier Attributes Profile Version 1.0. Committee Specification Draft 02 / Public Review Draft 02. 10 April 2018.  |
| REFEDS OIDCRe    | OpenID Connect for Research and Education Working Group. Mapping SAML attributes to OIDC Claims. Referenced 9 February 2018.<br><a href="https://wiki.refeds.org/display/GROUPS/OpenID+Connect+SAML+mapping">https://wiki.refeds.org/display/GROUPS/OpenID+Connect+SAML+mapping</a>   |
| RFC2119          | Bradner, S. Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels. RFC2119. <a href="https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt">https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt</a>  |
| UKGDS            | How to prove and verify someone's identity, updated 9 January 2023, UK Government Digital Service. Referenced 23 March 2023.<br><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/identity-proofing-and-verification-of-an-individual/how-to-prove-and-verify-someones-identity">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/identity-proofing-and-verification-of-an-individual/how-to-prove-and-verify-someones-identity</a> |
| X.1254           | International Telecommunication Union. Series X. Data Networks, Open System Communication and Security. Cyberspace security –   |

344

## 345 Appendix A: Compatibility of RAF Versions and Other 346 Frameworks

347 *This appendix is informative.*

### 348 A.1 Guidance Regarding Upwards Compatibility of RAF 1.0

349 Under the REFEDS Assurance Framework (version 1.0, denoted RAF 1.0 when clarity is  
350 needed), IAP levels low, medium, and high were assigned to selections of one or more external  
351 identity proofing standards. By contrast, IAP levels under the present REFEDS Assurance  
352 Framework version 2.0 are assigned based on meeting associated criteria explicitly defined  
353 within the Framework.

354 The reason RAF 2.0 explicitly defines IAP criteria within the framework is due to the challenge  
355 posed by RAF 1.0 IAP criteria referring to three different external sources, stating that any one of  
356 those three sources can be used to meet RAF 1.0 IAP levels. That reliance on external sources  
357 made RAF 1.0 more difficult to understand, forcing the CSP to study the external sources and  
358 make a determination which “route” they would use. The three sources were IGTF, selections  
359 from Kantara “Classic”, and selections from eIDAS for IAP low and IAP medium. IAP high only  
360 referred to Kantara “Classic” and eIDAS.

361 From an RP’s perspective, the presence of three different referenced frameworks made it difficult  
362 to determine the practical level of risk the IAP claims addressed. The guaranteed risk had to be  
363 the lowest common denominator between all three frameworks (two frameworks for IAP high), for  
364 the simple reason there was no way for an RP to know by which framework the CSP arrived at a  
365 particular IAP claim.

366 The authors of RAF 2.0 attempted to find the common ground between the sources and  
367 crystalize what the IAP levels inherently mean, within the document itself. Thus, RAF 2.0 IAP  
368 criteria are derived from the RAF 1.0 sources. Through the course of the analysis, the differences  
369 between the three source systems revealed themselves. The authors considered weakening the  
370 RAF 2.0 criteria to maintain full upwards compatibility from RAF 1.0. However, given that risks to  
371 identity proofing have evolved since RAF 1.0 was authored, the RAF 2.0 authors decided not to  
372 weaken the framework, and instead adopt a version claim.

373 RAF 1.0 is not considered deprecated. However, some RPs may require assurance that RAF 2.0  
374 criteria are used instead of RAF 1.0 criteria. For this reason, all implementations of RAF 2.0 must  
375 also signal <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2>. The absence of the RAF version  
376 2 claim but presence of <https://refeds.org/assurance> indicates that any IAP low,  
377 medium, or high claim is RAF 1.0, and it is up to the RP to decide if that is sufficient. The below  
378 sections titled “implications” are intended to assist the RP in making this determination.

379 If an RP requires RAF 2.0, this has implications for CSPs who have already, or are considering,  
380 implementation of RAF 1.0. In order to meet RP requirements, the CSP may find itself having to

381 transition to RAF 2.0 from RAF 1.0.

382 The following implication sections are intended to clarify the differences between RAF 1.0 and  
383 RAF 2.0 IAP claims in order to help RPs decide what to require, and to help CSPs transition to  
384 RAF 2.0 if required. These details are different depending on which external framework (IGTF,  
385 Kantara “Classic”, or eIDAS) the CSP used to justify its RAF 1.0 IAP claim. Note that if the CSP  
386 made no process-based IAP claims at all, the CSP can add  
387 <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2> and be fully RAF 2.0 compliant; any future  
388 process-based IAP claims would need to be implemented according to the criteria in Section  
389 5.2.1 of this document.

## 390 Implications for CSPs using eIDAS for RAF 1.0

### 391 **Assurance gaps involved:**

392 If the CSP made a RAF 1.0 IAP process-based claim using eIDAS, then it’s possible the CSP  
393 made such a claim without satisfying [AB4].

394 Although eIDAS does not require [UR3], eIDAS is built around an ‘in-person’ principle. [UR3] only  
395 applies in the case where the CSP is implementing an unsupervised remote identity proofing  
396 process. It is expected that claimants will have been proofed in person in this case, so [UR3] is  
397 not a concern for those CSPs using eIDAS.

### 398 **Transition Guidance for CSP:**

399 If an RP levies a requirement for RAF 2.0, the CSP must first ensure that, if it allows the binding  
400 of third-party credentials, [AB4] is implemented. Once [AB4] is satisfied or determined not  
401 applicable, then the CSP may add the claim <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2>

## 402 Implications for CSPs using Kantara “Classic” for RAF 1.0

### 403 **Assurance gaps involved:**

404 If the CSP made a RAF 1.0 IAP claim using Kantara, then it’s possible the CSP made such a  
405 claim without satisfying [AB4] or [UR1].

### 406 **Transition Guidance for CSP:**

407 If an RP levies a requirement for RAF 2.0, the CSP needs to:

- 408 ● Confirm whether it allows the binding of third party authenticators. If not, there is no  
409 issue. If so, the CSP must meet [AB4].
- 410 ● For claims of IAP high, confirm whether it allows unsupervised remote proofing. If so, the  
411 CSP must meet [UR3]. If not, there is no issue.

412 Once these two criteria are met, the CSP may add the claim  
413 <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2>

## 414 Implications for CSPs using IGTF for RAF 1.0

### 415 **Assurance gaps involved:**

416 If the CSP claims IAP low or IAP medium based on the IGTF framework as described in RAF  
417 1.0, it’s possible that [IE2], [AB1] or [AB4] is not met.

## 418 Transition Guidance for CSP:

419 If an RP levies a requirement for RAF 2.0, the CSP needs to:

- 420 ● For IAP claims of low and medium, confirm whether it requires contact information for the  
421 Claimant, with demonstration of proof of control of that contact information [AB1].
- 422 ● For IAP claims of medium, confirm whether the identity evidence it uses is issued by a  
423 source nationally recognised for such purposes [IE2].
- 424 ● Confirm whether it allows the binding of third party authenticators. If so, the CSP must  
425 meet [AB4]. If not, there is no issue.

426 Once these three criteria are met, the CSP may add the claim

427 <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2>

## 428 Implications for the RP

429 Because RAF 1.0 does not inform the RP by which source framework (RAF 1.0 refers to selected  
430 sections of IGTF, eIDAS, and Kantara “Classic”) the CSP made its IAP claim, the RP has to  
431 consider the following risk gaps for IAP claims without the RAF 2.0 version claim (i.e., RAF 1.0  
432 IAP claims). Specifically, the CSP may have implemented these, but the RP cannot be sure they  
433 are implemented based solely on a RAF 1.0 claim:

- 434 ● IAP Low: [AB1], [AB4]
- 435 ● IAP Medium: [IE2], [AB1], [AB4]
- 436 ● IAP High: [AB4], [UR3]

437 Which source framework has which gap is detailed in the “implications” sections above.

438 Because [AB4] is a potential gap across all three of the source frameworks for RAF 1.0 claims of  
439 IAP low, IAP medium, or IAP high, if the RP permits use of authenticators bound to the vetted  
440 identity that are not issued by the CSP making those IAP claims, then the RP should require

441 <https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2>

442 Note that if the RP does not require process-based IAP claims, then the RP need not require the  
443 RAF 2.0 version claim for the other claims in this framework, as those claims are fully upwards  
444 compatible.

445 Finally, any CSP implementing RAF 2.0 would be fully backwards compatible in this regard, and  
446 an RP choosing not to require RAF 2.0 will still be able to accept RAF 2.0 claims. (There is no  
447 case where RAF 2.0 weakens any claim).

## 448 A.2 Compatibility of Equivalent or Higher Assurance Frameworks

449 This Appendix provides a mapping of selections of external identity proofing standards which  
450 suffice to meet or exceed a corresponding IAP level. This appendix is not comprehensive; it  
451 provides examples. If any CSP has implemented one of these equivalent frameworks, the CSP  
452 may make IAP claims without having to further analyse the IAP criteria in Section 5.

453 If a CSP has already implemented IGTF standards and wants to adopt RAF 2.0, refer to A.1  
454 above for notes on what criteria must be checked before the RAF 2.0 version claim can be  
455 asserted.

456 If a CSP follows the EU’s eIDAS specifications:

- 457 ● If a CSP implements **eIDAS Substantial or High**, they may assert IAP high, IAP medium

458 and IAP low.

459 ● If a CSP implements **eIDAS Low**, they may assert IAP medium and IAP low.

460 If a CSP follows the U.S.'s NIST 800-63-3 standards:

461 ● If a CSP implements **NIST SP 800-63-3 IAL2 or IAL3**, they may assert IAP high, IAP  
462 medium and IAP low.

463 ● Note that **NIST SP 800-63-3 IAL1**, does not qualify for IAP low unless the CSP adds a  
464 measure to check if the Claimant is a Person.

465

## 466 Appendix B: Implementation Discussion

467 *This Appendix is informative.*

### 468 B.1 Narrative of IAP Criteria

469 The following section details requirements for the identity proofing and authenticator issuing  
470 process the Credential Service Provider (CSP) must meet to claim the IAP levels of low, medium,  
471 and high.

472 The identity proofing process involves several fundamental concepts in addition to some general  
473 requirements:

474 Identity evidence is any artefact that a Claimant presents to prove their identity. This may  
475 take the form of one or more of the following: documentation such as a government-  
476 issued physical or digital identification document or record, the ability to be validated and  
477 verified through a national registrar, or similar means.

478 Validation refers to checking to see that the identity evidence is genuine, and that the  
479 identity claimed by the evidence is a real identity that exists (*i.e.*, the evidence is genuine,  
480 and the identity it claims is a genuine real-world identity of a Person).

481 Verification refers to checking to see if the Claimant is the Person to whom the validated  
482 identity belongs.

483 Authenticator Binding refers to establishing and maintaining the binding between an  
484 authenticator and a vetted identity.

#### 485 B.1.1 In Person and Supervised Remote Proofing

486 The following describes the requirements for an In-Person or Supervised Remote Proofing  
487 process to be able to claim IAP low, medium or high. Additional requirements for an  
488 Unsupervised Remote proofing process are specified in the next session.

##### 489 IAP low

490 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: During the overall identity proofing and authenticator issuing  
491 process, the CSP ensures that the Person accomplishing each step of the process is the same  
492 Person throughout the process. The CSP also ensures that the proofing process's procedures  
493 are documented and followed, and that the documented procedures address how the CSP meets  
494 all applicable criteria for each IAP level supported.

495 The CSP maintains records of the identity proofing and authenticator issuing process each time it  
496 is enacted, to include recording: when the Person was identity-proofed, who was proofed, and at  
497 what IAP level the proofing was done. Each record should be preserved in accordance with local  
498 record-retention guidelines.

499 EVIDENCE, VALIDATION, AND VERIFICATION: At IAP low, a Claimant's self-assertion of their  
500 identity is acceptable and the Claimant need not present any identity evidence. Without  
501 presented evidence and given that the identity is self-asserted, there is no *validation* of evidence  
502 nor *verification* of ownership of the identity by the Claimant required at low. To satisfy the  
503 requirement that the Claimant is verified to be a Person, the Registrar may accomplish this by  
504 visually seeing the Claimant (e.g., face to face for In Person proofing and over a live video feed  
505 for Supervised Remote Proofing).

506 AUTHENTICATOR BINDING AND ISSUANCE: The Claimant must provide at least one piece of  
507 contact information. The Claimant must demonstrate control of any and all contact information  
508 provided during the identity proofing process, whether it is to be used for notification purposes or  
509 is used in authenticator binding processes. If the CSP issues an authenticator to the Claimant  
510 during or after the identity proofing process, it must be delivered in a manner that can be  
511 assumed to have reached only the Claimant. Furthermore, if the CSP permits the Claimant to  
512 register a previously issued authenticator (either issued by the CSP in a prior context or by a  
513 third party that has been documented as acceptable by the CSP), then the Claimant must  
514 demonstrate control of the authenticator during the identity proofing process. Finally, the binding  
515 between the vetted identity and associated authenticators must be maintained in any follow-on  
516 authenticator management processes, such as: renewal, replacement, or removal of a vetted  
517 Person's existing authenticator; registering a new authenticator; or updating, adding, or removing  
518 contact information. In such cases, the binding is maintained by either re-accomplishing the full  
519 identity proofing process or by authenticating with a valid authenticator previously bound to the  
520 vetted identity.

### 521 IAP medium

522 In addition to the measures described in low, the following measures are required to achieve  
523 medium.

524 EVIDENCE, VALIDATION, AND VERIFICATION: At IAP medium, the Claimant submits identity  
525 evidence to the Registrar. The identity evidence presented must be valid at the time of identity  
526 proofing (e.g., unexpired), and the evidence must be either: issued by a nationally recognized  
527 source; or nationally recognized as being valid for identification purposes; or is a documented  
528 attestation of knowledge of their identity from an authority recognized by the CSP. To validate  
529 that the evidence is genuine, IAP medium is satisfied with the registrar visually inspecting the  
530 evidence to check that it reasonably appears to be authentic. In order to verify that the Person  
531 owns the claimed identity, the presented identity evidence reasonably appears to belong to the  
532 Claimant.

### 533 IAP high

534 In addition to the measures described in medium, the following measures are required to achieve  
535 high.

536 EVIDENCE, VALIDATION, AND VERIFICATION: At IAP high, as in IAP medium, the Claimant  
537 submits identity evidence to the Registrar. If the submitted evidence contains intrinsic security  
538 features, such as holograms, watermarks, electronically validated certificates, or other similar  
539 feature that meets the same anti-tamper/anti-forgery risk-reduction intent, then the Registrar  
540 checks them to validate its genuineness. The Registrar further validates the evidence by  
541 checking with a trusted source that the identity claimed in the evidence exists and the evidence is  
542 still valid. Such validation checks may, but need not, take one of the following forms: an issuing  
543 or authoritative source confirms the validity of the identity evidence; transaction records of a  
544 recognized organisation providing financial, educational or utility services documents the  
545 existence of the claimed identity by confirming the identity's presence in those transactions; or  
546 the Registrar is able to directly obtain through secure means a written attestation of their  
547 knowledge of the identity from a separate person who has been previously identity proofed at a  
548 level of IAP high. Once the evidence is validated, no additional measures beyond medium are  
549 required to verify ownership of the claimed identity.

550 AUTHENTICATOR BINDING AND ISSUANCE: IAP high levies one additional requirement for  
551 authenticator binding and issuance beyond the requirements in IAP medium and IAP low: if the

552 CSP issues an authenticator during or after the identity proofing process, it must be delivered  
553 only into the possession of the Claimant to whom it belongs.

## 554 B.1.2 Adjustments for Unsupervised Remote Proofing

555 For Unsupervised Remote Proofing, the following measures must be applied to the proofing  
556 process in addition to the measures described for in-person and remote supervised proofing.

557 CSPs may need to consider additional implementation measures on how to accomplish the  
558 requirements. For example, IAP low requires that the CSP ensure that the Claimant is a Person.  
559 This requirement does not change in the Unsupervised Remote context, but the CSP may need  
560 to add measures to achieve that assurance of Personhood. When the process is in-person, this  
561 is a trivial requirement in that the Personhood is checked by virtue of the Registrar interacting  
562 with the Claimant face to face. When the process is remote and unsupervised, then the CSP will  
563 need to consider how that requirement is to be fulfilled.

### 564 **IAP low**

565 There are no additional requirements for IAP low beyond what is required for In-Person or  
566 Supervised Remote for an Unsupervised Remote process. However, CSPs will need to add  
567 implementation solutions to check for Personhood (such as a “robot check” or similar solution).

### 568 **IAP medium**

569 In addition to IAP medium in-person requirements, an Unsupervised Remote process requires  
570 that the Registrar further validate the evidence by checking with a trusted source that the identity  
571 claimed in the evidence exists and is not revoked. Such validation checks may, but need not,  
572 take one of the following forms: an issuing or authoritative source confirms the validity of the  
573 identity evidence; transaction records of a recognized organisation providing financial or utility  
574 services documents the existence of the claimed identity by confirming the identity’s presence in  
575 those transactions; or the Registrar is able to directly obtain through secure means a written  
576 attestation of their knowledge of the identity from a separate person who has been previously  
577 identity proofed at a level of IAP high.

### 578 **IAP high**

579 In addition to IAP high in-person requirements, the following measures are required when the  
580 process is Unsupervised Remote.

581 In addition to the requirement for the Claimant to demonstrate control of any provided contact  
582 information, at least one piece of contact information must be verified by the Registrar to belong  
583 to the Claimant by a trusted source.

584 Furthermore, to satisfy the in-person requirement that the presented identity evidence reasonably  
585 appears to belong to the Claimant, the Registrar must accomplish one of the following: (1) a  
586 manual comparison of a photo or other biometric contained within a piece of validated identity  
587 evidence against a live video, photo or other biometric of the Claimant captured during the  
588 unsupervised remote portion of the proofing process; (2) or, use an automated system to  
589 compare a photo or other biometric contained within a piece of validated identity evidence with a  
590 live video, photo or other biometric of the Claimant captured during the unsupervised remote  
591 portion of the proofing process, and the technology that does the comparison is deemed  
592 sufficient for this purpose by a nationally or internationally recognised authority.



## 593 B.2 Implementation Considerations

594 *This section is informative.*

595 The Table of normative IAP criteria does not prescribe implementation details or specific tools  
596 and technologies, but instead articulates requirements in a functional way in order to remain  
597 meaningful across international contexts and as technologies evolve over time.

598 This section is intended to provide illustrative examples and discussion yielding a practical  
599 understanding of “how one actually does this.” These examples and discussion points show how  
600 certain aspects of the normative criteria can be interpreted for implementation, but are not  
601 intended to be exclusive.

### 602 **Building on a Third Party’s Identity Assurance Claim**

603 The CSP may base its IAP claim on a comparable or better level of identity proofing of the  
604 Claimant performed by a 3rd party known to be sufficient for this purpose, such as a nationally  
605 accepted identity proofing service or a known and accepted third-party identity proofing solution  
606 that meets or exceeds RAF standards, and the CSP’s process securely links the Claimant with  
607 the subject of that 3rd party’s identity assurance claim. Typically this secure linkage is done by  
608 the Claimant demonstrating authentication with an authenticator provided by that 3rd party. If the  
609 3rd party authenticator is to be the basis for an IAP high claim, then the authentication must use  
610 MFA or be otherwise comparably strong. When this approach is taken, criteria in the IE, VA, VF,  
611 and UR groups may be ignored.

612 Appendix A.2 above may be useful in determining whether a 3rd party identity proofing claim  
613 meets or exceeds a corresponding RAF IAP claim.

### 614 **Demonstrating Control of Contact Information**

615 Criterion [AB1] specifies that the Claimant must demonstrate control of any contact information  
616 provided during the identity proofing process. Examples of contact information include but are not  
617 limited to: an email address, a phone number, a text or social media account, or physical mailing  
618 address. Demonstration of control may be accomplished by the Registrar sending a confirmation  
619 code or link to that address, and having the Claimant confirm by being able to retrieve and  
620 provide the code, or click on the provided link. Another example that could be used in an in-  
621 person identity proofing process for a phone number could be for the Registrar to call or SMS to  
622 the provided number and the Claimant demonstrate control of the phone number (for example by  
623 repeating a phrase or passcode communicated). The Registrar need not follow these specific  
624 examples, and may develop other ways of validating Claimant’s control of the contact information  
625 provided.

626 Different contact methods (email, phone number, postal address, direct message, etc) may have  
627 different expected timelines. If a confirmation code is sent, the Registrar will need to consider the  
628 expiration timeframe for that confirmation code. What may make sense for an SMS text or email  
629 (minutes) does not make sense for a code sent through the postal service (days).

630 Recommended expiration times for validation codes based on various contact methods:

- 631 ● Postal Mail: <=10 days
- 632 ● Electronic Means (via whatever mechanism): <=10 minutes

633 Registrars will need to consider the norms for where they are located (e.g., some locations’  
634 postal mail times may need to be extended).

## 635 **Validating Intrinsic Security Features of Identity Evidence**

636 In [VA3], the Registrar is required to check the validity of intrinsic security features if any are  
637 present. Examples of intrinsic security features range from physical anti-tamper characteristics  
638 such as holograms, watermarks, laser etching, etc. to digital anti-tamper characteristics such as  
639 an embedded chip containing a cryptographically signed form of the presented identity data that  
640 can be checked against the issuing source.

641 The UK Government Digital Service published “How to prove and verify someone's identity”  
642 [UKGDS], which provides practical guidance on each of several aspects of identity proofing.  
643 Each of its sections describe how to achieve progressively more stringent checks, assigning  
644 scores of 1-4 accordingly. The section “Check the evidence is genuine or valid” is a good  
645 compilation of means to validate identity evidence, either in-person or remotely. Achieving a  
646 score of 2 satisfies [VA3].

647 Validation and verification during an unsupervised remote identity proofing session may rely on a  
648 special purpose system designed to perform validation checks of identity evidence and to verify  
649 that the Person being proofed matches a photo on a piece of validated identity evidence. Such  
650 systems are becoming increasingly available in some jurisdictions. In the US, the Kantara  
651 Initiative assesses commercial providers of such services, some of which are designed to be  
652 integrated within an organisation’s own identity proofing process in order to support unsupervised  
653 remote proofing. Kantara’s Trust Status List [Kantara TSL] identifies each such service. These,  
654 together with 3rd parties identified in material on their Trust Status List entries on which some of  
655 them rely in turn, provide a starting point for US based organisations thinking about implementing  
656 unsupervised remote identity proofing at IAP high. Some of those providers also operate outside  
657 of the US.

## 658 **Identity Evidence and Photo IDs**

659 Some may be curious as to why this framework does not explicitly require a “government-issued  
660 photo ID”. The reason is simply because not every nation uses photo ID cards as their primary  
661 means of identification. Furthermore, technology has evolved such that a government issued  
662 card may be verified via other cryptographic or biometric means that may exceed the  
663 requirements in RAF. The RAF framework attempts to state “what” is required at an assurance  
664 level without prescribing “how”, since technology evolves and different nations do not implement  
665 things in the same way.

666 However, a CSP’s implementation may require a government-issued photo ID. For example, to  
667 meet verification requirements at IAP medium in-person, the easiest way in most cases is to  
668 compare the photograph on the card with the Person holding the card, through visual inspection.  
669 For nations which do not have a robust national-level identity infrastructure, it may be that a  
670 government-issued photo ID is the only evidence that enables the Registrar to easily meet all the  
671 various validation and verification requirements.

672 Finally, a point about “presented evidence”, which implies the Claimant must present the  
673 evidence themselves. While this is likely to be the case, there may be instances where CSPs  
674 have implemented solutions where the evidence is presented through other means. It is not the  
675 intent of this framework to limit creative solutions that meet or exceed the criteria.

## 676 **Appendix C: Examples on assurance values**

677 *This section is informative.*

678 A University that guarantees that its faculty members (as defined in [eduPerson])

- 679 1. have unique non-reassignable identifier values,  
680 2. are ID-proofed face-to-face using a government-issued photo-ID and the attributes on the  
681 photo-ID are checked against an authoritative source, and  
682 3. are authorised to upload grades to their student information system,

683 and for which the institution

- 684 4. promptly reflects departure or role change into eduPerson affiliation value(s),  
685 5. its identity management system qualifies to the baseline expectations for Identity  
686 Providers, and  
687 6. its identity proofing process conforms to RAF 2.0 process-based criteria

688 will assert the following claims for its faculty members as multiple values of the  
689 eduPersonAssurance attribute:

690

| Claim   | Reason                   |
|---|--------------------------|
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2">https://refeds.org/assurance/version/2</a>                       | (6) above, Section 4     |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance">https://refeds.org/assurance</a>   | (5) above, Section 3     |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/unique">https://refeds.org/assurance/ID/unique</a>                       | (1) above                |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/local-enterprise</a> | (3) above                |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/high</a>                         | (2) above, Section 5.2.1 |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/medium</a>                     | Section 5.2.1            |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low">https://refeds.org/assurance/IAP/low</a>                           | Section 5.2.1            |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1d</a>                     | (4) above                |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m">https://refeds.org/assurance/ATP/ePA-1m</a>                     | Section 5.3              |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/cappuccino">https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/cappuccino</a>     | Section 6                |
| <a href="https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/espresso">https://refeds.org/assurance/profile/espresso</a>         | Section 6                |

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